

TEXAS

Texas ranks third among the states in number of local governments, with 4,835 as of October 2007.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (254)

There are no areas in Texas lacking county government. The county governing body is called the commissioners court.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (1,209)

Municipal Governments (1,209)

Municipal governments in Texas are the cities, towns, and villages. Three types of municipalities are authorized under general law:

- Type A cities and towns--1875 law
- Type B towns and villages--1858 law
- Type C cities, towns, and villages--1909 law

The minimum population required for incorporation is 600 for Type A municipalities and 201 for Type B or C municipalities. There is no maximum population for Type A municipalities; the maximum population is 9,999 for Type B municipalities and 4,999 for Type C municipalities. Type A and B municipalities with a population of fewer than 5,000 may operate under the aldermanic or city manager forms of government, whereas Type C municipalities must operate under the commission form of government.

In addition, Texas law authorizes municipalities of 5,000 population or more to adopt home-rule charters. Municipalities organized under special acts prior to 1881 may continue to operate under those acts and may, by resolution, amend their charters in any regard not in conflict with state law.

Township Governments (0)

Texas has no township governments.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (1,082)

School District Governments (1,081)

The following types of school districts in Texas are counted as separate governments for census purposes:

- Common school districts
- Independent (self-governing) school districts
- Municipal school districts
- Rural high school districts
- County Industrial training school districts
- Rehabilitation districts for handicapped persons
- Union, county, or joint county junior college districts
- Independent junior college districts

In 1995, authorizing legislation for common school districts, municipal school districts, rural high school districts, industrial training school districts, and rehabilitation districts for the handicapped was repealed. No new districts of these types may be formed; however, existing districts are allowed to continue under the former laws.

Common and independent school districts may in some cases be countywide, countyline (intercounty), or consolidated. An elected board of trustees governs each common or independent school district. Both types of districts may levy local school taxes and issue bonds.

Municipal school districts may certify the amount of school taxes to be collected by the city or town, after voter approval.

Rural high school districts are governed by an elected board of trustees. The districts may levy school taxes and, upon voter approval, may issue bonds.

An industrial training school district, is governed by a board of trustees consisting of three elected members who appoint an additional four ex officio members--a city council member, a school district board member, a juvenile court judge in the county,

and the county judge or a member of the commissioners court. Districts may determine fees and tuition and may issue revenue bonds. Industrial training school districts may levy ad valorem taxes upon voter approval.

A rehabilitation district for the handicapped is administered by an elected board of directors. The board may fix fees and tuition rates. Rehabilitation districts may levy ad valorem taxes, upon voter approval.

The county and joint junior college, union junior college, independent junior college, and enlarged junior college districts are each administered by an elected board of trustees or regents. Districts of these types may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Dependent Public School Systems (1)

Open enrollment charter schools that are directly operated by a governmental entity, and college and university charter schools are considered to be dependent activities of the administering government.

Other Educational Activities

A junior college administered directly by an independent school district is not counted as a separate government but is classified as an activity of the school district.

Legislation in 1965 established countywide vocational school districts that are financed by a county tax levy. These districts, however, are administered by the board of trustees of local school districts and are not counted as separate governments.

Also not counted as separate governments are the "common elementary districts" within rural high school districts. These have no boards or fiscal powers separate from the rural high school districts.

Regional education service centers, which provide various educational and support services to school districts, are created according to guidelines set by the commissioner of education. A seven-member

board appointed, in a manner determined by the commissioner, governs each center. The centers may receive contributions from participating school districts and grants from the state foundation school fund.

Higher education facilities authorities, which finance student loans and construction of higher education facilities, are listed under "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (2,291)

Texas statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below. It should be noted that some conservation and reclamation districts are also authorized to operate under the provisions of the water code, and the conservation and reclamation districts created by special acts may have the same designation as districts established under other general laws.

Agricultural Development Districts

Agricultural development districts are established under the same constitutional provisions as conservation and reclamation districts. These districts promote and encourage the conservation of soil and water in the area. A district is created upon petition to the county commissioner's court by at least 10 residents of the proposed district after a public hearing. Upon approval, the county commissioners will select a temporary board of directors until permanent members can be elected by the residents of the district. The district may issue bonds, enter into contracts to provide services, and impose charges for use of land or facilities. The district may impose assessments after a petition and hearing.

Airport Authorities

Airport authorities to operate and maintain airports have been authorized under a number of special acts with similar provisions. Thus, authorities may be established by the county commissioners court after petition of voters and approval by local referendum. A board of

directors, either appointed by the county commissioners or elected by the voters, governs each authority. The authority may fix rates and charges for services and facilities. Airport authorities, as a rule, may issue both revenue and general obligation bonds; however, general obligation bonds require voter approval.

Civic Center Authorities

These authorities to provide civic centers and related recreational facilities are created by the county judge upon petition of the governing bodies of two or more cities following a public hearing. A board of directors, appointed by the county judge on recommendations from the cities included in the authority, governs each authority. The board of directors may issue revenue bonds and collect fees, rentals, and charges for services and facilities. Although authorizing legislation for these authorities has never been repealed, none has ever been reported in operation.

Conservation and Reclamation Districts

Conservation and reclamation districts may be established under either general or special laws. Under general law, such districts are created by the county commissioners (or by the state natural resources conservation commission if the district serves two or more counties) upon petition of landowners after hearing and, in some instances, local referendum. Conservation and reclamation districts established by special acts with substantially similar provisions are known by a variety of names. Conservation and reclamation districts perform a variety of functions, including irrigation, flood control, water storage for both domestic use and irrigation, generation of power, water supply, sewerage and waste disposal, and soil conservation, as specified in the authorizing legislation for each district. Their boards of directors are appointed by the Governor or a state agency or by local officials, or are elected by the voters, as specified in the authorizing legislation for each district. Revenue for conservation and reclamation districts is mainly from rates and fees imposed for services.

Some districts of this type may also levy ad valorem taxes or special assessments. These districts may also issue bonds, after voter approval.

Conservation and reclamation districts that are governed by the county commissioners court ex officio, including the Harris County Flood Control District, are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

For river authorities established under laws authorizing conservation and reclamation districts, see "River Authorities," below.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority, also established under laws authorizing conservation and reclamation districts, is described below.

Coordinated County Transportation Authorities

Authorities may only be established in a county that is adjacent to a county with a population of more than one million. Authorities may be created by the commissioners court of a county on adoption of a resolution or order initiating the process, or upon petition of voters after a public hearing and election. An authority may impose fares, tolls, charges, and rents, and may issue bonds. An authority may, upon voter approval, levy a tax.

County Development Districts

Districts to build facilities to attract tourists may be created upon petition of land owners in any county with a population less than 400,000 followed by a public hearing, and approval at referendum. A board of five directors appointed by the commissioners court governs the district. The district may levy a sales tax with voter approval, and issue bonds.

Drainage Districts

Districts to provide for drainage of agricultural lands are established by the county commissioners court on petition of landowners and after hearing and referendum. A board of

elected directors administers each district. The districts may levy taxes and issue bonds, upon voter approval.

Drainage districts that are governed by the county commissioners ex officio are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Edwards Aquifer Authority

The Edwards Aquifer Authority, created by special act under constitutional provisions applicable to conservation and reclamation districts, is the regional agency charged with protection and management of the aquifer in an eight-county area encompassing all of Bexar, Medina, and Uvalde counties and parts of Comal, Caldwell, Hays, Guadalupe, and Atascosa counties. The authority has the power to regulate wells, to set limits on total pumping from wells, to reduce aquifer water use, and to implement comprehensive regional planning for water conservation and future water supply. The board, composed of 15 elected directors and two appointed directors, may assess user fees and may issue revenue bonds.

Emergency Communications Districts

Districts to provide a "911" emergency telephone number are established upon organization of the district board of managers, after voter approval. The board of managers consists of members appointed by the governing body and commissioners court of the participating governments represented. The district may impose a "911" service fee on telephone customers and issue bonds.

Emergency Services Districts

These districts to provide fire protection services and, optionally, ambulance and other emergency services are established by the county commissioners court upon petition of voters, after hearing and referendum. A board of commissioners appointed by the county commissioners court governs each single-county district. An elected board of commissioners governs each multicounty

district. Both types of districts may levy ad valorem taxes and, with voter approval, impose a sales and use tax, subject to the approval of the county commissioners court and referendum. Districts may issue bonds and charge fees for services.

Hospital Districts and Authorities

Texas statutes authorize the following types of districts to operate and maintain hospitals that are counted as separate governments:

- Hospital authorities--1957 law
- Hospital authorities--1963 law
- Hospital districts--1957 general law
- Hospital districts--1989 general law

Hospital authorities created under the 1957 law are established by ordinance of one or more cities. A board of directors, appointed by the city governing body, governs each authority. The authorities may fix charges and may issue revenue bonds.

Hospital authorities created under the 1963 law are established by the county commissioners. A board of directors, initially appointed by the county commissioners court, governs each authority. However, the resolution authorizing revenue bonds for authority purposes may also indicate how a majority of directors are selected. The directors not specified in the resolution are appointed by the commissioners court. The authority may fix rates and charges for services and facilities and may issue revenue bonds.

Hospital districts created under the 1957 general law may be created in counties with fewer than 75,000 in population that meet specified assessed valuation requirements, by the county commissioners court upon petition of voters and after a hearing and local referendum. An elected board of trustees governs each district. The district may collect charges. The district may, upon voter approval, levy ad valorem taxes, and issue bonds. Subsequent legislation in 1961 provided for two hospital districts in Brazoria County with the same general provisions as above.

Hospital districts created under the 1989 general law may be created upon petition to the county judge and after public hearing and referendum. An elected board of directors governs each district. The districts may fix fees and charges, issue bonds, and, after voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes.

In addition, numerous hospital districts have been created by special legislation after voter approval. A board of directors, trustees, or managers governs each such district and is usually elected but is in some cases appointed. These districts may fix service charges and, with voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

For a few districts, however, the authorizing legislation requires county approval of capital projects. Districts for which such approval is required are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

The following types of hospital districts under general law are not counted as separate governments (see "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below):

Hospital districts in counties with more than 190,000 in population
Hospital districts with ex officio boards--1957 optional law

Health facilities development corporations created by a hospital district are classified as dependent on the hospital district creating them. They are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Housing Authorities

Texas laws authorize three types of housing authorities--county, municipal, and regional. The governing body of a city may, upon resolution of need, establish a city housing authority upon petition by voters. The commissioners court of a county may, upon resolution of need, establish a county housing authority on its own motion or upon petition of voters. Similarly, two or more counties may

establish a regional housing authority by the commissioners court after a public hearing; the newly formed regional district replaces any existing county districts. The mayor appoints the city housing authority commissioners, and the county commissioners appoint the county or regional housing authority commissioners. Housing authorities may fix rents and charges and issue bonds.

Housing Finance Corporations

These corporations are created by two or more governments to provide mortgage credit for housing. They are established upon application of three or more persons to the county or city governing body, after resolution of the governing body. A board of directors governs each corporation; the initial directors are named in the articles of incorporation, but their successors are appointed by the county or city governing body. A corporation may fix charges in connection with its loans, and issue revenue bonds.

Housing finance corporations that serve one city or county government are not counted as separate governments; see "Special District Governments," above.

Irrigation Districts

Formation of districts to provide irrigation and drainage facilities is initiated upon petition of landowners after a hearing and approval from the county commissioners court (if the district covers a single county) or from the state natural resources conservation commission (if the district covers more than one county); confirmation by the voters is necessary. A board of five directors, elected by the voters, governs each district. Districts may enter into contracts with the federal government, after voter approval. All districts may impose water charges and, upon voter approval, may issue bonds. Districts may levy taxes and assessments; however, districts not under contract with the federal government must first receive voter approval.

Jail Districts

Districts to finance jail facilities are created by the commissioners court upon petition of voters to one or more counties, after public hearing and referendum. An elected board of directors governs each district. The district may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds after voter approval. No jail districts were reported to be in existence as of October 2007.

Levee Improvement Districts

These districts to provide levees and reclamation are established by the county commissioners court, on petition of the landowners and after hearing. A board of directors, appointed by the county commissioners or elected at the option of voters, governs each district. The districts may issue bonds after referendum and may levy taxes. Districts may levy taxes on an ad valorem basis and, after a decree of appraisal, districts may levy taxes on a benefit basis.

Library Districts

Library districts to promote and support area libraries are established by the county commissioner's court on petition by five percent of registered voters, subject to county referendum. Upon passing of the referendum, voters choose in the same election the initial five board of trustees to govern the district. A district may fix fees and charges for services and, upon voter approval during creating election, may levy a sales and use tax.

Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authorities

These authorities are established by contract between two or more cities, counties, hospital districts, school districts or combination thereof to provide community mental health and mental retardation services. A board of trustees appointed by the governments represented governs each authority. The authorities may fix fees and charges and receive contributions from member governments in accordance with contractual

provisions.

Mental health and mental retardation authorities serving a single county are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authorities

Municipalities having a population of more than 60,000 and located in a metropolitan area having a principal municipality with a population of more than 1.2 million may create a metropolitan rapid transit authority. Authorities created prior to 1980 with a principal municipality population of fewer than 1.2 million may continue to exist. Authorities are created by resolution of the governing body on their own accord or upon petition of voters, after a public hearing and referendum. The governing body of all authorities is appointed and varies in size as necessary to represent member municipalities. With voter approval, the district may levy sales and use taxes. Districts may also impose rates, fares, tolls, rents, vehicle-emission taxes, or other charges.

Prior to 1995, authorities had been created by the principal city in metropolitan areas to provide transit service in the metropolitan area. Metropolitan rapid transit authorities serving Austin, Corpus Christi, Houston, and San Antonio metropolitan areas were established under this law. The law also provides for the addition of member municipalities and county areas, subject to referendum in the proposed annexation areas.

Municipal Power Agencies

These agencies to provide for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power are created by the enactment of concurrent ordinances by two or more public entities, including cities, towns, and conservation and reclamation districts, after a referendum. A board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of the creating governments, governs each agency. The composition of the board is determined by the creating concurrent ordinance. The agency may issue revenue bonds and enter into contracts for the sale or

exchange of energy. An agency may establish and maintain rates and charges. The Texas Municipal Power Agency and the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency were established under this law.

Navigation Districts

Districts to construct, maintain, and operate port facilities created by the commissioners court upon petition of resident landowners and after a hearing and referendum. Districts of this type may not include more than all or parts of two counties. Districts created to improve, prevent, and conserve inland and costal water, and to control storm and flood water may be created in the same manner. Districts of this nature may not include more than all or parts of three counties. Districts are governed by a navigation and canal commission. Districts of the first type are governed by an appointed commission, and districts of the second type are governed by either an elected or appointed commission. Districts may prescribe fees and charges and, upon voter approval, may issue bonds and have taxes levied on behalf of such a district.

Some districts are called “port facilities.” Port facilities are created for the development of deep-water navigation in areas that include a city with a population of more than 100,000. They may operate and develop ports and waterways inside the district and extending to the Gulf of Mexico. Port facilities are governed by an appointed board of commissioners.

Noxious Weed Control Districts

These districts may be created by the county commissioners court upon petition of landowners and after public hearing and local referendum. An elected board of directors administers each district. The districts may levy an acreage tax.

Palacios Seawall Commission

This commission was created by a 1983 special act to maintain seawalls. It consists of appointed representatives of Palacios city and

Matagorda County. The commission may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Public Health Districts

Districts to provide public health services are created by interlocal agreements between two or more local governments. The composition of the district governing body is specified in the agreement creating the district. The amount to be paid to the district from each participating government is also specified in the agreement.

Regional Transportation Authorities

Regional transportation authorities to acquire, plan, construct, operate, and maintain a transportation system in the metropolitan area are established by petition initiated by a county or city governing body, after voter approval. The authority area is subdivided into subregions, each consisting of a principal municipality, the county of the principal municipality, and other municipalities and areas in the subregion. An executive committee, appointed by the subregional boards, governs each authority. The number of members on the executive committee is determined by the statutory form. Members of the subregional boards, in turn, are appointed by the governing bodies of participating county and municipal governments in accordance with a statutory formula. As an alternative, an authority serving one subregion may be governed by the subregional board. An authority may acquire, maintain, plan, and construct a transportation system. An authority also may charge rates, fares, and fees; issue revenue bonds; and, with voter approval, levy a sales and use tax. The Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Fort Worth transportation authorities are organized under this law.

River Authorities

River authorities are established by special acts of the legislature under the same constitutional provisions as conservation and reclamation districts. They may perform a variety of functions, including irrigation, flood control, water storage for both domestic use and irrigation, generation of electric power,

sewerage and water disposal, and soil conservation as specified in the authorizing legislation for each authority. River authorities may encompass one or more counties. A board of directors, appointed or designated in whole or in part by the Governor, appointed by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, elected by the voters, or appointed by member governments, governs each authority. All river authorities may impose rates and charges; some may issue bonds. Only one river authority, upon voter approval, may levy ad valorem taxes.

Rural Fire Prevention Districts

Authorization for these districts was repealed in 2003. All rural fire prevention districts have been converted to emergency services districts.

Rural Rail Transportation Districts

Districts to preserve rail freight service are established by order of the commissioners courts of two or more contiguous counties. A board of directors, appointed by the commissioners courts of the counties served, governs each district. The district may fix rents and issue revenue bonds.

Rural and Urban Transportation Districts

These districts may be created upon a finding of need by member counties, and municipalities, followed by a public hearing. They are governed by a board of nine to 15 representatives appointed by the county and municipal governing bodies from their membership. Their primary source of funding is derived from state appropriations.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Soil and water conservation districts are established by the state soil and water conservation board upon petition of landowners and after a hearing and referendum. A board of directors governs each district; it consists initially of two members appointed by the state soil and water conservation board and three elected

members, but their successors are elected. The districts may accept federal and state grants.

Special Utility Districts--1983 Law

Districts to provide water and sewer systems, fire protection, and solid waste collection, or any combination of these services, are created upon petition of a water supply corporation to the state natural resource conservation commission, after public hearing and referendum. Districts may include any part or all of one or more counties. An elected board of directors governs each district. The districts may fix fees and charges and issue bonds.

Sports Facility Districts

Districts to provide sports facilities may be created by order of the county commissioners court. An appointed board of five commissioners governs each district: two are appointed by the county commissioners court, two by the governing body of the most populous city in the county, and one by the school board of the largest school district in the county. The districts may fix fees, charges, and rentals, and may issue revenue bonds.

Water Districts

The Texas Water Code permits the establishment of the following types of districts:

Districts established by the county commissioners court and serving one or part of one county:

- Fresh water supply districts--water supply and fire protection

- Ground water conservation districts (single county)--conservation and development of water supply

- Regional Districts

- Water control and improvement districts (single county)--water supply, sewerage systems, irrigation, flood control, drainage, electric light and power, and navigation

- Water improvement districts (single county)--irrigation and water supply

Water supply districts--water supply and conservation, and electric light and power

Districts established by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission:

Municipal utility districts and limited districts--water supply, sewerage systems, flood control, parks and recreation, solid waste, and street lighting
Ground water conservation districts (multi-county)--conservation and development of water supply
Water control and improvement districts (multi-county)--water supply, sewerage systems, irrigation, flood control, drainage, electric light and power, and navigation
Water improvement districts (multicounty)--irrigation and water supply

Similar provisions apply to each of these types of districts. Each is established upon petition of landowners to the county commissioners court (by constituent districts in the case of water supply districts) or to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission; a local referendum is required except for the water supply districts. All have elected governing bodies. They may issue bonds, fix and collect charges as appropriate, and, with the exception of water supply districts, may levy taxes.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in Texas that have certain characteristics of governmental units but that are classified for census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments and are not counted as separate governments. Legal provisions for some of the larger of these are discussed below (see "Public School Systems," above, regarding educational agencies of this nature).

Among the subordinate agencies and areas listed below, some represent "special taxing

areas" within the territory of an established government. This method of financing additional services in limited areas by property taxation, while also used by some municipal and township governments in a few states, is more widely utilized by county governments. In the listing below of authorized county-related agencies, a bullet (*) appears for each entity of this kind--i.e., any that may individually serve a portion rather than all of a county and for which a tax may be levied against the assessed value of property in the area served.

Harris County Flood Control District (county). This district, which was organized under the conservation and reclamation district law to provide drainage, flood control, and reclamation services (see "Special District Governments," above) is not counted as a separate government. It is governed by the county commissioners of Harris County.

Health facilities development corporations (county, municipal, or hospital district). These corporations to finance health care facilities are established by resolution of the governing body of a county, municipality, or hospital district. A board of directors appointed by the creating government governs the corporation. The corporation receives revenue from the rental or sale of health facilities and may issue revenue bonds.

Higher Education Facility Authorities for Public Schools (municipal) These authorities to finance higher education facilities for public schools are established by ordinance by the governing bodies of one or more municipalities. Authorities are governed by a board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of member municipalities. Authorities may issue bonds, after notice, and upon voter petition, a referendum. Authorities may invest the proceeds of its bonds and may charge rates or lease for the use of facilities.

Higher Education Facility Authority for Private Schools (municipal) These authorities to finance higher education for private schools are created on ordinance by the governing bodies of one or more

municipalities. A board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of the participating municipalities, governs each authority. Authorities may issue bonds, after a notice, and if petitioned by voters, a referendum. Authorities may invest the proceeds of its bonds and accept grants from any source.

Higher Education Loan Authorities

(municipal) These authorities to finance higher education loans are established by ordinance by the governing bodies of the participating municipality or municipalities. A board of directors, appointed by the governing bodies of the participating municipalities governs the authority. Authorities may issue revenue bonds, with the approval of member cities. Authorities may invest proceeds of its bonds and accept grants from any source.

Hospital districts in counties of more than 190,000 in population (county). These districts are established by the county commissioners court on its own motion or upon the petition of voters, after voter approval. A board of hospital managers, appointed by the county commissioners court, governs each district. Districts with a population that exceeds 800,000 and that were not included in the boundaries of a hospital district prior to September 1, 2003, shall be governed by a larger board of hospital managers, appointed by the commissioners court and the governing body of the largest municipality. The county may levy taxes for district purposes. The district budget may be adopted only after approval by the county commissioners court. The hospital districts in the counties of Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Nueces, and Tarrant were established under this law.

Industrial development corporations (state, county, municipal, or special district).

These corporations are authorized to provide facilities for industries. They are established upon application of three or more persons to the governing body of a county, a city, or a conservation and reclamation district, after resolution of the establishing government. A board of directors, appointed by the establishing government, governs each corporation. A corporation may fix rentals,

receive the proceeds of sales taxes (in certain cities), and may issue revenue bonds, subject to the approval of the establishing government.¹

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan

Corporation (state). This corporation was created by act of the legislature to finance loans to students. The corporation board consists of 11 directors, of whom ten are appointed by the Governor, with consent of the state senate, and the comptroller of public accounts ex officio. The corporation may fix charges in connection with its loans.

Texas Public Finance Authority (state). This authority, formerly named the Texas Public Building Authority, was created by act of the legislature to finance state buildings. A board appointed by the Governor with the consent of the senate governs the authority. The authority may fix rentals and may issue revenue bonds.

Texas Water Resources Finance Authority

(state). This authority was established by act of the legislature to finance water resources conservation and development by purchasing water-related bonds issued by Texas political subdivisions. Six members of the state water development board govern the authority in an ex officio capacity. The authority may receive interest from bonds it acquires and may issue revenue bonds.

Urban renewal agencies (municipal). These agencies may be established by the city council on its own motion or upon petition of voters, after local referendum. Municipalities that did not establish agencies prior to April 27, 1973, may form agencies after an election has been ordered by the governing body of the municipality. A board of commissioners appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council governs each agency. An urban renewal agency may accept grants and appropriations and issue revenue bonds. The sponsoring city may issue general obligation bonds for urban renewal purposes and may levy taxes for this purpose with the approval of the voters. All urban renewal plans must be approved by the governing body of the

municipality, after a hearing.

Other examples include:

State

Agricultural Finance Authority
Texas Economic Development Corporation
Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact
Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (formerly Texas Water Development Board)
Veterans Land Board

County

City-county health units (county portion)
Conservation and reclamation districts governed by county commissioners (special acts)
County appraisal districts
County assistance districts
County building authorities
Crime control and prevention districts
Drainage districts governed by county commissioners
Harris County Toll Road Authority
Hood County Hospital District
Hospital districts governed by county commissioners (1957 optional law)
Housing finance corporations (county)
Joint city-county hospital boards (county portion)
Joint municipal-county hospitals (county portion)
Lubbock County Hospital District
Mental health and mental retardation authorities (single county)
*Mosquito control districts
Park and recreation districts (counties with river frontage on both the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers)
Public improvement districts (counties)
Recreational and cultural facilities boards (county portion)
*Road districts
Road utility districts

Sports and community venue districts
Storm water control districts
Titus County Hospital District
Tyler County Hospital District
Wind erosion conservation districts

Municipal

*Arts and entertainment districts
City of Laredo Port of Entry Authority
City-county health units (city portion)
City elderly housing corporations
Crime control and prevention districts
Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport Board
*Homestead preservation districts, and reinvestment zones
Housing finance corporations (municipal)
Industrial districts (administrative areas)
Joint city-county hospital boards (city portion)
Joint municipal-county hospitals (city portion)
La Porte Area Water Authority
Municipal development districts
Municipal management districts
Municipal parking authorities
Municipal property finance authorities or corporations
Public improvement districts (municipal)
Recreational and cultural facilities boards (municipal portion)
Road utility districts

Other

Pollution control districts created within the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority are administered by the authority and are classified as dependent activities thereof. The Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, in turn, is organized as a conservation and reclamation district under Texas law and is counted as a special district government for census purposes.

Texas laws also provide for various types of local areas for election purposes and administration of justice.

1 . The Texas Small Business Industrial Development Corporation, which is governed by the Texas Economic Development Commission, was organized under this law.